

REMARKS

Claims 22-26, 29, and 31-33 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claims 16-21 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in a related, co-pending application. Claims 22-26 and 31-33 have been allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Wang *et al.* (U.S. 6,699,177) in view of Ferre *et al.* (U.S. 6,738,656).

The present rejection is obviated in view of the cancellation of claim 28 as set forth above.

With regard to claim 29, Applicants respectfully traverse. A *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 requires a teaching or suggestion in the cited art of all claim limitations. MPEP §§ 2142, 2143.03. In the present case, claim 29 recites the following:

...a first sensor disposed adjacent the holder, the first  
senor transmitting a first signal to the processor in response to  
coupling of the adapter to the holder; and  
a second sensor disposed adjacent the holder, the  
second sensor transmitting a second signal to the processor in  
response to coupling of the tool to the adapter.

The Examiner has not shown where the cited art teaches or suggests a robotic system having the elements and limitations as recited above. In particular, the Examiner has not

shown where Ferre *et al.* teaches or suggests a system having both (a) a first sensor disposed adjacent the holder and transmitting a first signal in response to coupling of *the adapter to the holder and* (b) a second sensor disposed adjacent the holder and transmitting a second signal in response to coupling of *the tool to the adaptor.*

Accordingly, at least for the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe claim 29 to be patentable over Wang *et al.* in view of Ferre *et al.* Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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